AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-18 (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a bacterial infection comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a ~~therapeautically~~ therapeutically effective amount of an antibiotic agent, wherein said antibiotic agent is a 2' ester ~~selected from the group consisting of 2'-carboxylic acid esters of Erythromycin B, wherein said 2' esters~~ of Erythromycin B ~~are~~ with a dicarboxylic acid~~, and~~ or a 2'-carboxylic acid ~~esters~~ ester of Erythromycin B enol ether.

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the antibiotic agent is a 2'-ester of Erythromycin B enol ether with a monocarboxylic acid.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the antibiotic agent is 2'-ester of Erythromycin B enol ether with a dicarboxylic acid.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ester is a succinate ester.

23 and 24 (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the 2' carboxylic acid ester of Erythromycin B is a succinate ester.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the antibiotic agent is administered in an amount of up to 500mg per day.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the antibiotic agent is administered in an amount of 250 to 500mg per day.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the antibiotic agent is administered in the form of a tablet, a capsule, an elixir, an injectable or a syrup.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the bacterial infection is TB, Syphilis, Helicobacter pylori or Chlamydia.

30. (Currently Amended) An antibiotic composition comprising a ~~therapeautically~~ therapeutically effective amount of an antibiotic agent, wherein said antibiotic agent is a 2' ester ~~selected from the group consisting of 2'-carboxylic acid~~

~~esters of Erythromycin B, wherein said 2' carboxylic acid esters~~ of Erythromycin B ~~are~~ with a dicarboxylic acid~~, and~~ or a 2'-carboxylic acid esters of Erythromycin B enol ether.

31. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 30 wherein the antibiotic agent is a 2'-ester of Erythromycin B enol ether with a monocarboxylic acid.

32. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 30 wherein the antibiotic agent is 2'-ester of Erythromycin B enol ether with a dicarboxylic acid.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 32 wherein the ester is a succinate ester.

34 and 35 (Cancelled).

36. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 30 wherein the 2' carboxylic acid ester of Erythromycin B is a succinate ester.

37. (Previously Presented) A 2'-carboxylic acid ester of Erythromycin B enol ether.

38. (Previously Presented) The ester as claimed in claim 37 which is a 2'-ester of Erythromycin B enol ether with a monocarboxylic acid.

39. (Previously Presented) The ester as claimed in claim 37 which is a 2'-ester of Erythromycin B enol ether with a dicarboxylic acid.

40. (Previously Presented) The ester as claimed in claim 39 wherein the ester is a succinate ester.

41. (Previously Presented) A 2'-ester of Erythromycin B with a dicarboxylic acid.

42. (Previously Presented) The ester as claimed in claim 41 which is a succinate ester.

43-46. (Cancel).